

Ohio Slavic and East European Newsletter

Published for the Slavic Studies Community in the
State of Ohio by the Center for Slavic and
East European Studies, The Ohio State
University, 230 West 17th Ave.,
Columbus, Ohio 43210
Michael W. Curran,
Editor

OSEEN is published twice a month during the academic year. It is mailed free of charge to all those on our mailing list. If you are not on our list and wish to receive OSEEN regularly, please let us know.

The next issue of OSEEN will be the last for this academic year. If you have items of news regarding activities for the autumn quarter 1976 and wish to have some advance publicity, please submit such items before May 31, 1976, the deadline for the next issue.

For further information please call one of the following numbers (area code 614): Editor: 268-1587 or 422-5323; Slavic Center: 422-8770.

OHIO SLAVIC CALENDAR

- May 17-June 19 - Bicentennial Celebration, Cleveland Public Library.
Exhibition: "A Glimpse of the Ukraine" (760)(962)
- May 22 - WOSU Radio Series (9:30 AM) Dean Arthur Adams (OSU)
"Stalinism or Maoism; Their Influence on World
Revolutionary Movements" (704)
- 22 - Bicentennial Celebration, Cleveland Public Library.
Special Program: "Our Ukrainian Heritage" 3 PM.
(962)
- 20 - WOSU Radio Series (9:30 AM) Professor Vladimir
Gantman, Dept. of the Theory of International
Relations of the USSR Academy of Sciences, and
Professor Philip Stewart, OSU Department of
Political Science and Rapporteur of the Dartmouth
Conference (704)
- June 3 - Lecture at OSU: Gene Gerasimov, Chief of the U.S.
Bureau of Novosti Press Agency (USSR), will speak
on the topic "Current Soviet-American Relations:
The Soviet Perspective," 7:00 PM, 144 Bevis Hall,
OSU West Campus. (1000)
- 5 - Bicentennial Celebration, Cleveland Public Library.
Special Program: "A Glimpse of Lithuania" at
3:00 PM. (1002)
- September 1-29 - Bicentennial Celebration, Cleveland Public Library.
Exhibition: "Our Czech Heritage" (760)(1003)
- October 4-30 - Bicentennial Celebration, Cleveland Public Library.
Exhibition: "Our Slovenian Heritage" (760)
- October 6-9 - Eighth National Convention of AAASS, Stouffer's
Riverfront Inn, St. Louis, Missouri. (1001)

LATVIAN LANGUAGE TO BE OFFERED AT BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

997. Dr. Dzidra Shllaku of the German and Russian Department of Bowling Green State University has announced a three-quarter sequence of courses in elementary Latvian to be offered during the 1976-77 academic year. Each course will carry four hours of University credit. For further information contact: Dr. Dzidra Shllaku, German and Russian Department, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio.

OFFICERS AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE MIDWEST SLAVIC CONFERENCE

998. President: William Zimmerman, University of Michigan
Vice-President: Robert F. Byrnes, Indiana University
Executive Secretary: P. Craig Smith, Northeastern Illinois University

Executive Committee:

W. Bruce Lincoln, Northern Illinois University, 1977
Karen Hollo, Strongsville Ohio Public Schools, 1977
Leon I. Twarog, Ohio State University, 1977 - Chairman
Edward Kolyszko, Columbia Heights, Minnesota, 1978
Emily Leonard, Western Illinois University, 1978
Douglas Nicoll, Beloit College, 1978
Maurice Friedberg, University of Illinois, 1979
Alice Gorlin, Oakland University, 1979
Alfred Levin, Kent State University, 1979

CALL FOR PAPERS

999. The University of Michigan Center for Russian and East European Studies will host the 1977 annual meeting of the Midwest Slavic Conference, May 5-7, 1977. Professor Deming Brown, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, and Professor Roman Szporluk, Department of History, Co-Chairmen of the Program Committee, invite interested persons to submit suggestions for papers and panels including ideas for interdisciplinary, comparative, and area-wide topics. Inquiries are also invited from organizations and societies that may wish to meet in conjunction with the Midwest Slavic Conference. Please address all correspondence regarding the 1977 Midwest Slavic Conference annual meeting to: Robert R. Carlson, Chairman 1977 Midwest Slavic Conference Annual Meeting, The University of Michigan, 210 Lane Hall, C.R.E.E.S., Ann Arbor, MI 48109; telephone: (313) 764-0351 or 764-8571.

SOVIET JOURNALIST TO LECTURE AT OSU

1000. Mr. Gene Gerasimov, Chief of the United States Bureau of the Soviet Novosti Press Agency, will speak on "Current Soviet-American Relations: The Soviet Perspective" in conjunction with International Studies 230, "Introduction to the Soviet Union." Mr. Gerasimov is a journalist and writer who has contributed to many Soviet Publications and particularly to *Literaturnaia Gazeta*. The public is invited to attend the lecture which will be given June 3, 1976, at 7:00 PM in Bevis Hall 144, on the OSU West Campus. For further information contact: Professor Jan Adams, International Studies, 308 Dulles Hall, 230 West 17th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43210; telephone: (614) 422-9660.

EIGHTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF AAASS PLANNED

1001. The Eighth Annual Convention of the AAASS in conjunction with the Central Slavic Conference will be held October 6, 7, 8, and 9, 1976, at the Stouffer's Riverfront Inn, St. Louis, Missouri. The host institutions this year will be St. Louis University, The University of Missouri at St. Louis, and Washington University. For more information, contact the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, 254 Welding Engineering, 190 West 19th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43210; telephone: (614) 422-1105.

LITHUANIAN COMMUNITY PLANS BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

1002. The Cleveland Public Library's "Our National Heritage Program" will present a special program "A Glimpse of Lithuania," Saturday, June 5, 1976, at 3:00 PM in the Main Library Auditorium, 325 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio. The program will include lectures, folk singing and dancing and a slide show. There will be a reception in the Auditorium Lounge immediately following the program. An exhibition of Lithuanian arts and crafts will be displayed in the Foreign Literature Corridor on the second floor of the Main Library Building during the month of June, 1976. The public is invited.

FORTHCOMING BICENTENNIAL PROGRAMS

1003. In the autumn, the Cleveland Public Library's "Our National Heritage Program" will continue to offer interesting programs. An exhibition entitled "Our Czech National Heritage" will run from September 1-29, 1976, with a special program planned for Saturday, September 11. A Slovenian exhibition is planned to run from October 4-30, 1976, with a special program on Saturday, October 23, 1976.

HOW SOVIET SCHOOL CHILDREN LEARN ENGLISH

1004. The following is excerpted from *The Christian Science Monitor*, Thursday, April 22, 1976; written by Thomas Kent, Associated Press Correspondent.

Eleven years old and very timid, the Russian boy faced the class and spoke in halting English.

"Our country washes. . . ." he began.

"The country can't wash anything," barked the teacher. "Passive voice! Use it!"

"Our country is washed," the boy quickly corrected himself, "by 13 seas and three oceans."

"Our country is the largest country in the world."

There were only 13 children in the classroom that day at Primary School 17 for the English Language in a wartime brick building in southeastern Moscow.

HOW SOVIET SCHOOL CHILDREN LEARN ENGLISH (CONTINUED)

One by one, boys in dark school uniforms and girls wearing the red scarves of the Young Pioneer Communist Youth organization came to the blackboard to write new words or give recitations.

Like their teacher, they all had accents and their wording sounded formal and bookish. But most of them, although only 11 or 12, already spoke easily and with practically no grammatical faults.

Primary School No. 17 is no ordinary Soviet school. It is one of 74 specialized institutions in Moscow that take in only the brightest pupils and then saturate them with English from age 7 to 19.

There are similar schools in every important Soviet city. Although Soviet ideology holds that Russian will eventually become a leading world language, the Soviet Union is preparing a corps of young specialists in English, plus others in German, French, and Spanish.

"All our pupils will use English in some way in their later lives," the school's deputy director, Irina Borontsova, said after the lesson. "This school is just 10 years old but already we have a few of our former pupils starting work in the diplomatic corps."

Because of the careers they can lead to, the schools are highly competitive. Parents bring their children there for auditions where they must demonstrate ability to read and write Russian well and pass physical, psychological, and creativity tests.

Those accepted enter a largely English atmosphere for the rest of their primary school days, with English lessons every day and English-language signs and displays everywhere.

The school, like all those in the Soviet Union, charges no tuition. The best graduates often go on to the prestigious Moscow Institute of Foreign Languages, while others working from foreign technical articles get jobs at engineering schools, and still others are employed as tourist guides or work in institutions serving foreigners.

Virtually every pupil is a member of the Young Communist League by the time he graduates, Principal Yevdokiya Melishevskaya said. Political lecturers, who visit the school regularly, stress developments in England and the United States.

A picture display on American cities said Chicago is an "arena of class battles," citing factory worker insurrections there in the last century.

"About once a month we invite delegations of visiting Americans or Englishmen to the school so the children can practice," the principal said. "We also exchange letters with classes at schools in the United States and Britain."

Contact with the West, however, is limited. The school's main current affairs reading matter is the Moscow News, an English-language weekly published by the Soviets and often written in the formal English of official Soviet translators.

HOW SOVIET SCHOOL CHILDREN LEARN ENGLISH (CONTINUED)

Now and then a copy of the Morning Star, the British Communist Party paper, is available.

One pupil from another English language school complained that she tried to get her own American pen pal through official Soviet bodies.

"I had no answer from them. Nothing at all," she said. Her ambition is to be a Soviet interpreter working overseas, she added.

All 15 English teachers at Primary School No. 17 are Soviet citizens, but some of them have studied abroad. Like many Soviet teachers of English, they prefer British usages. Use of the American spelling "honor" instead of the British "honour" is regarded as a mistake.

The school seems to have spared no effort on facilities or staff. Although current reading material from the West is limited, pupils have the works of Mark Twain, Jack London, and a series of other American and English writers to study. There is an electronic language laboratory and classes are small.

School No. 17 has 750 pupils with 15 English-language teachers. Other subjects, such as mathematics and history, are studied in Russian.

The only complaint of teachers seemed to be that the children do not speak English enough to cover most situations.

"Now and then I try to force them into it, but it doesn't help," said Deputy Director Blyumental as shouting children swirled around on a staircase at the start of lunch break.

"Among themselves, they're all Russian."

SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWS

1005. Henry Ziegler has been appointed Chairperson for High School Day at the 1976 AATSEEL Annual Convention in New York on December 27. Ohio has the best organization of Russian teachers of any state in the Union. Many of you have presented ideas and demonstrations at our OSU Russian Teachers' Workshops that would make excellent presentations at the Annual Convention. Would you please volunteer to be on the program? We can all grow, if you will. Send all inquiries and information to: Henry P. Ziegler, Princeton High School, 11080 Cluster Road, Cincinnati, OH 45246.

1006. Edinboro State College will offer eight one-year scholarships in Russian Language and Area Study for the 1976-77 academic year. The scholarship will cover tuition fees for both semesters.

High school seniors with above average academic standing and at least two years of foreign language study (not necessarily Russian) are eligible. Purpose of the scholarship is to prepare students for a career in international trade with particular emphasis on East-West Trade. Financial need is not a consideration for acceptance. Scholarship winners will enroll at Edinboro State College

SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWS (CONTINUED)

as Russian Language majors with additional specialization in business administration, accounting, economics, or engineering.

To apply for the Russian Language and Area Scholarship, the candidate must follow the general college admissions procedures set forth in the latest Edinboro State College *Undergraduate Catalog*, obtainable from the ESC Dean of Admissions. The letter requesting the catalog and application for admission should clearly indicate that the candidate is applying for admission as a Russian major and, secondly, that the candidate is an applicant for the Russian Language and Area Study Scholarship. Applications will be accepted until July 30, 1976.

For information: Julius M. Blum, Professor of Russian, Edinboro State College, Edinboro, PA 16444; telephone: (814) 732-2417.

1007. The annual Ohio State University Slavic Day festivities, organized by Professor George Kalbous, were held on Thursday, April 29, in the Fawcett Center for Tomorrow. Twelve schools and two universities from Ohio were represented. A panel discussion of careers with Russian was followed by a variety show that consisted of singing, dancing and original skits and plays. Students from the following high schools participated in the variety show: Bratenahl (Lydia Papouras, teacher), Princeton (Henry Ziegler, teacher), Upper Arlington (Irene Trachevski, teacher), and Worthington (Alex Pashovich, teacher). Afternoon activities included a song fest, movies, a puppet show, slides of Lager' Druzhba, tours of the OSU campus, and an open house at the Slavic Department of The Ohio State University. Many of the over 350 students who attended took advantage of the presence of a large display of Russian books and materials that had been brought to Columbus for the occasion by Four Continent Book Corporation to add to their personal collections.

1008. Norman Klee, Director of the Chinese-Russian Study Center in Toledo would like to communicate with teachers who have ideas and materials for games, songs, skits and lessons appropriate for mini-courses in Russian at the junior high school level. These ideas and materials will be most useful in preparing the Russian portion of a junior high school foreign language exposure program that will be offered in Toledo in the coming academic year. Contact Mr. Klee at: DeVilbiss High School, 3301 Upton Avenue, Toledo, OH 43613; telephone: (419) 475-5092.

1009. People everywhere love food, and Slavophiles are no exception. In an effort to support this statement, the Russian Club at Columbus School for Girls (Kathi Schmoll, teacher) shamelessly indulged in a feast at the first Annual Spring Dinner on Sunday, May 9. Borscht, golbtsy, salad, kasha, halvah, and tea provided sustenance. Father Mateja Matejic, guest speaker, gave a slide presentation of the peninsula of Mt. Athos, where he had travelled to study and photograph ancient Slavic manuscripts. Among the guests present at the banquet were Mr. and Mrs. George Trachevski, some of Mrs. Trachevski's students from Upper Arlington High School, and Mr. and Mrs. Gerard Ervin of The Ohio State University. The CSG Russian Club would like to extend thanks and love to our sponsor, Mrs. Kathi Schmoll, who will be leaving us for Germany at the end of this year. (Submitted by Beth Merriman, Columbus School for Girls)

SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWS (CONTINUED)

1010. Some 100 people, including students and teachers from Brookhaven High School, Columbus School for Girls, Upper Arlington High School, representatives of The Ohio State University, and administrators from the Columbus Public Schools attended the Russian Banquet sponsored by the Russian Club of Brookhaven High School (Natalie Cowan, teacher). The banquet was held at Whetstone Park on May 13. The Banquet-goers were given Russian nametags on entering the brightly decorated shelter house, then sampled the 50 different dishes that had been prepared. Entertainment included Ukrainian, Macedonian and Russian dances.